

Students sponsored a speech by [redacted] citizen and a member of the G. P. Communist Party since 1962. The presentation ran from 8:00 to 10:00 PM in a lecture room at the J. J. Goethe University in Frankfurt.

The presentation was well publicized on the half-day campus a week in advance with posters and [redacted] pamphlets. Despite the advance publicity, relatively few students, approximately 100, attended the event. The SDS (Socialist German Student Union) and other "New Left" student groups did not support the presentation nor did they attend it in large numbers. The SDS (Association of Socialist Students) is itself one of the smaller student organizations at the university.

[redacted] also a Communist Party member.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
Date RELEASED 7/1/84

Students sponsored a speech by Bettina Arlt, a German citizen and a member of the G.D.R. Communist Party since 1962. The presentation was given from 8:00 to 10:00 PM in a lecture room at the J. J. Goethe University in Frankfurt.

The presentation was well publicized on the university campus a week in advance with posters and typed pamphlets. Despite the advance publicity, a relatively few students, approximately forty, attended the event. The SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) and other "New Left" student groups did not support the presentation nor did they attend in large numbers. The AAS (Association of American Students) is itself one of the major student organizations at the university.

Bettina Arlt was accompanied by her husband, Frank, also a Communist Party member.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date RELEASED 7/1/1991

Attachment: IIR
Report on Speech

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introduced by her maiden name. Her father, Herbert Altshuler, is a well-known Marxist politician.

In her speech Altshuler described in detail, from her viewpoint as a student at the University of California at Berkeley, the radical "New Left" student activities on that campus with particular emphasis on the repressive measures that were used against the students by state police and National Guard troops. She described the Berkeley student confrontation with state authorities as being symptomatic of a larger social revolution resulting from four interrelated social trends in the United States: an increasing monopoly of economic production, the deterioration of confidence in social and political institutions, increased racial conflict, and continuing U.S. overseas imperialism. Altshuler stated that the student conflicts with the authorities who are under the control of the California Board of Regents represented a confrontation with the capitalistic monopolies which had gained control of the state government and its educational system. She concluded that in light of the four social trends characterizing U.S. society, a political polarization of left radicalism and right reactionary conservatism within the society is inevitable. She stated that the primary purpose of the Communist Party in the United States was to stimulate the polarization by increasing the radical political awareness of the students and young workers. She noted the particular importance of opposing the power of the "pro-imperialistic" AFL-CIO labor unions.

During the presentation, [redacted] was asked to clarify the relationship of the Communist Party to the SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), role in the Berkeley student demonstrations. She attempted to avoid the question and responded in only general terms stating that the Communist Party had been influential in the early student civil rights demonstrations, and that at Berkeley, as at other university campuses, Communist Party members had worked hard to support student demands and demonstrations. She described Communist Party efforts at Berkeley to organize the clerical and staff employees at the University into unions which by striking could assist the student movement by "totally shutting down the University". [redacted] stated that there was considerable debate within the Communist Party in California over whether or not to support the Black Panther Party. Many of the older and more traditional party members regarded the Black Panthers as unreliable opportunists. Despite the discussion, she said the Party did assist the Black Panther Party by providing pamphlets distributed by Black Panther Party members to help defend Huey Newton, a Black Panther serving a prison sentence in California.

There was generally a mixed reaction to the presentation by the audience, which during the speech diminished to about half of its original size. Many in the audience, which included at least a dozen anti-Communist "leftist" students, plus several American [redacted]

[redacted] felt that Althea was a [redacted]

representative of the Communist Party was attempting to garner undue credit for speeches at student meetings which had been previously credited to the U.S.S.R. students and other "New Left" student groups. The effectiveness of the speech was also reduced by a laborious and time consuming translation from English into German despite the fact that the majority of the audience understood the speech in English.

